An Updated Inventory of Illinois Mineral Producers and Maps of Extraction Sites

Xiaodong Miao, Zakaria Lasemi, Donald G. Mikulic, and Michael Falter

A new survey of mineral resource producers has been undertaken to more accurately determine the character of the industry and location of its operations in Illinois. This study lists the companies (other than coal, oil, and gas producers) involved in mining, processing, and manufacturing mineral products in the state while new maps show the locations of non-fuel mineral resource extraction sites. Information about the listed operations has been gathered from Illinois Office of Mines and Minerals (Illinois Department of Natural Resources), Mine Safety and Health Administration (Department of Labor), Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers, and the staff of the Illinois State Geological Survey.

In addition to updating the lists and locations of these operations, some of the importance of markets and resource availability is indicated by these maps. For example, most aggregate production is located in northeastern Illinois near the Chicago metropolitan area, which is the state’s largest market for these materials. In this area, most of the state’s sand and gravel resources, both quantity and quality, are related to continental glacier deposits.

The production of crushed stone resources is also concentrated in northeastern Illinois because of the large Chicago market, which takes advantage of the local availability of Silurian and Ordovician-age dolomites, which produce high-quality aggregate. New listings of underground mine sites in this area indicate the increasing importance of locating new aggregate sources in this rapidly growing region.

Providing a new listing of all mineral resource producers will aid a wide variety of groups, including the aggregate industry, landowners, and land-use planning agencies in meeting future needs for these resources.